

1 _____ BILL NO. _____

2 INTRODUCED BY _____
3 (Primary Sponsor)

4 A BILL FOR AN ACT ENTITLED: "AN ACT REQUIRING OIL AND GAS DEVELOPERS OR OPERATORS TO
5 PAY COURT COSTS AND ATTORNEY FEES TO SURFACE OWNERS WHO ARE AWARDED
6 COMPENSATION BY A COURT FOR DAMAGES CAUSED BY OIL AND GAS OPERATIONS; AMENDING
7 SECTION 82-10-508, MCA."

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9 BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF MONTANA:

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11 **Section 1.** Section 82-10-508, MCA, is amended to read:

12 **"82-10-508. Rejection -- legal action.** (1) If the person seeking compensation receives a written
13 rejection, rejects the offer of the oil and gas developer or operator, or receives no reply, that person may bring
14 an action for compensation in the district court of the county in which the damage was sustained.

15 (2) If the person seeking compensation prevails in court, the oil and gas developer or operator shall pay
16 compensation as well as court costs and attorney fees."

17 - END -